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## COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

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### **MANDATORY SOURCE REQUIREMENT**

The AbilityOne Program's ***mandatory source requirement***, as specified by the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act at 41 USC Chapter 85, Section 8504: Procurement Requirements for the Federal Government, is critical to providing long-term stable employment for Americans who are blind or who have other significant disabilities. Regulation at 41 CFR 51-5.3, Scope of Requirement, states "when a commodity is included on the Procurement List, the ***mandatory source requirement*** covers the National Stock Number or item designation listed and commodities that are essentially the same as the listed item." When a product is designated as a potential violation to the prohibition to purchase ETS items compared to approved AbilityOne Procurement List products, Federal government employees are prohibited from purchasing the ETS item in lieu of what is on the Procurement List.

At its July 2011 meeting, the Employment Growth Subcommittee reported that the purchase of ETS products by Federal Government employees costs the Program hundreds of employment opportunities every year. Commonly referred to as "leakage," the purchase of ETS items is a significant roadblock to the AbilityOne Program's employment growth mission.

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